

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 AID-20 IO-13 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15

NSC-10 RSR-01 NSCE-00 (ADP) W

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O 121240Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2850

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 2268

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON US UG

SUBJECT: WORLD COUNCIL OF YMCA

REF: (A) STATE 135958; (B) KAMPALA 2260; (C) NAIROBI 4536

1. HAVE HAD SOME SECOND THOUGHTS RE SUBJECT CONFERENCE. INSTEAD OF TELLING AMERICAN DELEGATION NOT TO ATTEND WORLD COUNCIL IN KAMPALA, WHY NOT SUGGEST THEY CONVINCE COUNCIL ORGANIZERS TO CHANGE VENUE TO ANOTHER NEARBY CAPITAL, SAY NAIROBI OR ADDIS ABABA. DOES IT MAKE ANY SENSE TO HOLD SUCH A LARGE CONFERENCE OF 63 NATIONAL DELEGATIONS IN A COUNTRY WHERE:

(A) TOURISM IS OFFICIALLY BANNED ON PRESIDENTIAL ORDER; AND (B) 11 PCV'S (HALF OF THEM GIRLS) ARE DETAINED FOR SOME 55 HOURS, MORE THAN HALF OF WHICH WERE SPENT IN AIRPORT TRANSIT LOUNGE, BECAUSE OF A RIDICULOUS REPORT THAT THEY MIGHT BE MERCENARIES ON THE WAY TO RWANDA TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT THERE?

2. COUNCIL ORGANIZERS MIGHT WELL PREFER A CHANGE OF LOCATION, EVEN AT THIS LATE DATE, TO THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, WHICH COMPRISES ONE-FOURTH OF THE ATTENDANCE. REALIZE IT IS VERY LATE TO CHANGE PLANS AFTER ALL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE, BUT IT'S A MATTER OF LESSER OF TWO EVILS.

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3. IF VENUE IS CHANGED, THERE WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE SOME EXPLANATION MADE TO GOU AND UGANDAN YMCA, WHICH IS HOSTING COUNCIL. CANCELLATION OF PLANS TO COME HERE COULD BE BASED ON GOU'S BAN ON TOURISM, BUT GENERAL AMIN WOULD PROBABLE IMMEDIATELY LIFT BAN, AND THEN YMCA WOULD HAVE NO EXCUSE NOT COME HERE. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO INFORM GOU THAT COUNCIL HAD TO BE MOVED ELSEWHERE BECAUSE USG HAS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS FORBIDDING TRAVEL TO UGANDA BY AMERICANS CITIZENS, EXCEPT FOR ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL REASONS, AS A RESULT OF WHAT USG TERMS WAS ILLEGAL, IMPROPER, INHUMANE DETENTION OF A HUNDRED AND ELEVEN PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS FOR SOME 55 HOURS AT ENTEBBE ON THE WEEKEND OF JULY 7 TO 9. SINCE AMERICAN CITIZENS MAKE UP ONE QUARTER OF DELEGATES TO COUNCIL, IT HAD TO BE MOVED ELSEWHERE.

4. THIS WOULD PROBABLY CAUSE AMIN TO EXPLODE IN A FIT OF RAGE, AND HE MIGHT TAKE IT OUT ON US IN SOME FASHION. BUT PERHAPS IT IS ABOUT TIME THAT SOMEONE DID SOMETHING TO PULL HIM UP SHORT. PROTESTS DO NO GOOD; HE SIMPLY IGNORES THEM AND PROCEEDS ON THE SAME COURSE TO HIS NEXT OUTRAGE. SOMEHOW HE HAS TO BE TAUGHT THAT THERE IS COST INVOLVED IN HIS BEHAVIOR AND THE ONLY WAY HE WILL LEARN IS BY BEING FORCED TO PAY THAT COST.

5. SUGGEST DEPT REPEAT REFS (A) AND (B) TO ADDIS.
KEELEY

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